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Streeter, Lilian C.

Report on charities and correction of state of N.H.

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ON

CHARITIES AND CORRECTION

OF

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

COMPILED FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTION AT NEWTON, MASS., OCTOBER 24-26, 1893,

BY

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Printed for State Board of Charities and Correction in 1902, for purposes of comparison and reference, since it antedates their first report by three years.

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THE CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Population (Census of 1890) 376,530.

There is no State Board of Charities and Correction in New Hampshire, and there are no general agencies for the collection of statistics of the defective, dependent and delinquent classes. But in 1889, the State Board of Health was made a Board of Commissioners of Lunacy, and required to visit all insane asylums in the state as often as once in four months, and report annually to the governor and council the number of commitments, discharges and deaths, at each, and the age, sex and nationality of those committed. And the New Hampshire Insane Asylum, the State Prison, and State Industrial School, each make annual reports to the governor and council, with statistics of numbers and expense.

Expenses of Charities and Corrections, How Apportioned.

The State Insane Asylum is supported chiefly by its private patients and its invested funds. But the state appropriates six thousand dollars ($6,000) annually for the indigent insane, supports the convict insane, and also any indigent insane persons who may be sent by the commissioners of lunacy for remedial treatment, and all those who, having been supported in the asylum twenty years or more by friends or relatives, find that support withdrawn. The total expense of the asylum for the year ending October 1, 1892, was $97,505.89, towards which the state contributed $22,041.77. All insane paupers not included above are supported by the towns or counties to which they belong, at the different county farms. Paupers having no town settlement

are supported by the counties. Paupers having a town settlement are supported at the county farms at town expense, or aided at home. So far as I can discover, not one of the town poor-farms, formerly maintained, is now in existence.*

No fixed annual appropriation is made for the State Prison, but the law provides that any deficit shall be made good by the state. The total expenses of the State Prison last year were $20,243.29; receipts, $19,182.40; balance paid by state, $1,060.89†. It is therefore almost self-supporting.

The State Industrial School has an annual appropriation of $6,000, and each town and county pays to it a certain fixed sum for the board of those whom it sends there. This sum was reduced a few years ago from $2 to $1.50 per week, and the total sum so received for board during the year ending October 1, 1892, was $6,565.62, thus dividing the expense about equally between the state and counties.

The expense of maintaining the Soldiers' Home (which was built entirely by the state) is borne by the state and the United States government together, the government paying $100 a year for each inmate. The total cost for the last year was $13,769.38, of which the state paid $8,866.13, and the government $4,903.25.‡

Statistics of Insane for One Year.

INSANE AT STATE ASYLUM.

Whole number in asylum October 1, 1893	368
Daily average during year	369.02
Supported as follows:	
Wholly by self or friends	102
Partly by themselves and partly by friends or by state aid	128
By counties and towns	60
By State Commission of Lunacy	48
In the twenty-year class	11
Convict insane	19
Total	368

* Note, 1902. Weare, Hanover and Salem still maintain their town farms.
† Report of New Hampshire State Prison for year ending November 30, 1892.
‡ Report of State Treasurer for year ending May 31, 1893, page 308.

The report for 1893 is not yet made out, but the total cost for the year will be not far from $100,000 (including $10,000 for permanent improvements), and the cost per week for each patient has been a little over $5.

COUNTY INSANE.

Total number of insane at county farms (including idiots and epileptics) January 1, 1893, 401. The expense is the same as that of the other paupers, no separate accounts being kept, and ranges from 97½ cents per capita, per week, in Grafton county to $1.92 in Merrimack and Belknap counties, and averages $1.55 per week. Thus more than half of our insane are confined in county asylums, at the same expense to the state as its paupers, and are receiving no remedial treatment whatsoever. Yet, of the indigent insane sent to the state asylum for remedial treatment in 1892, 18.75 per cent. were discharged as recovered, and 17.71 per cent. as much improved. These facts are eloquent and need no comment.

The Public Poor.

It is difficult to state the precise number of paupers in the county almshouses at any one date, or their exact expense, on account of the loose and unsystematic manner in which the county reports are rendered, and because houses of correction form a part of many of the county farms, and yet no separate account of their inmates is kept. But as reported by the superintendents, there were on January 1, 1893, in the ten almshouses, a total of 1,270 paupers, and the approximate cost of their maintenance for twelve months is $115,050.36. The approximate expense of paupers aided outside the farms during the same time is $142,800.68, and the aid given dependent soldiers, $62,787.44. It should be stated in this connection, to New Hampshire's honor, that her dependent soldiers do not lose their vote by reason of receiving public aid, nor are they ever alluded to as paupers, or so considered.

Tabular Statement

Showing the number of almshouse inmates in each county on January 1, 1893, number of insane in each, and expense per capita, per week; also the number in the county jails on January 1, 1893.

COUNTIES.	Whole number in almshouses Jan. 1, 1893 (including insane and inmates of houses of correction).	Number of insane, including idiots and epileptics.	Expense per capita per week.	Number in jails January 1, 1893.
Rockingham	190	62	$1.67	13
Strafford	165	49	1.63	22
Belknap	73	8	1.92	8
Carroll	58	14	1.19	1
Merrimack	165	56	1.92	22
Hillsborough	314	131	1.67	60
Cheshire	57	25	1.382	14
Sullivan	52	14	1.91	..
Grafton	116	23	.975	9
Coös	80	19	1.26	4
Total	1,270	401	15.527	153

Dependent Children.

There are five orphan asylums in the state, and one hundred and forty-eight children are now maintained therein. The largest one, situated in Franklin, and called the New Hampshire Orphans' Home, is unsectarian, and is maintained by public contributions. It now supports forty-nine children, but has just dedicated a new nursery building, capable of accommodating about sixty more. Two homes are supported by the Episcopal Church, one in Concord accommodating forty-two, and the other in Portsmouth, accommodating eighteen. They report that they are constantly obliged to refuse applications for admission.

The Rolfe and Rumford Asylum in Concord is for destitute girls only, who are natives of Concord. It is supported from the interest of a fund of $125,000 left by the late Countess of Rumford, and accommodates twenty girls. It keeps them until they are eighteen, and trains them to be self-supporting, self-respecting women. The fifth asylum is the Manchester Children's Home, accommodating twenty children. There are also two Roman Catholic orphanages in the state, statistics of which I have been unable to obtain.

In addition to these asylums, the state itself assumes the expense of the support and education of its deaf and dumb, blind, and feeble-minded children, appropriating $10,000 annually for that purpose. Thirty-two children are now thus supported in institutions outside the state.

Prisoners and Other Delinquents.

The whole number of convicts in the State Prison January 1, 1893, was 157 — 153 men and 4 women. They are employed in making bedsteads. The discipline is perfect. No reformatory treatment is attempted.

The number confined in the ten county jails averages about one hundred and fifty, from one in the Carroll county jail to sixty in Hillsborough.

The State Industrial School had eighty-four inmates October 1, 1892. The average detention there is two and one-third years, and in their last report they state that there has been no attempt to escape for seventeen months. The inmates learn to make hosiery and seat chairs, and the school is remarkably well managed. The superintendent, who has been there for the past nineteen years, is advanced in his views, kind and firm. The improvement in this institution during the last twenty years is very marked.

Immigration.

New Hampshire has a Commission of Immigration, but I find that it seems to exist, not to collect statistics, but simply to promote immigration by advertising the summer resorts

and abandoned farms of the state. The last census, however, gives the number of foreign-born citizens as 72,340, of which 46,321 are from Canada and the Provinces — 14,890 from Ireland, 4,759 from England, 1,906 from Scotland, and the rest in scattering numbers from South America, Mexico, the West Indies, etc.

Recent Legislation.

The only noteworthy legislation relating to charities and correction during the last session of the legislature (January to April, 1893), is as follows:

1. An act providing that the children of paupers may be sent to some orphans' home at the expense of the county or town to which they belong, instead of being kept in the almshouses.

2. An act providing that after a person has been sentenced to prison twice for a period of not less than three years, he shall upon conviction a third time of felony be deemed an habitual criminal, and be punished by an imprisonment, not exceeding fifteen years.

3. A concurrent resolution of both houses providing for inquiry into the causes of the fire at the Strafford county almshouse, February 6, 1893, by which forty-one of the forty-four insane persons therein confined were burned to death. The preliminary report of this commission of inquiry sets forth facts almost too terrible for belief, and ought to be the means of bringing about a radical change in the methods of caring for the insane poor of our state. To summarize its main conclusions, the defects of the present county system are characterized as follows:

1. Lack of suitable buildings.
2. No classification of patients.
3. Lack of skilled attendants.
4. Lack of expert medical and surgical treatment.
5. Lack of occupation and entertainment for the patients,

and it further adds, "in this same category many other defective conditions pertaining to our county asylums might be mentioned," though one wonders what else can be left! And it recommends—

1. That the state assume entire support, control and management of the insane, and that county asylums be abolished.

2. That all buildings hereafter constructed as almshouses, asylums for the insane, jails and orphans' homes shall be built of brick, iron or stone, with partitions of fire-proof or slow burning material, the plans and specifications first to be approved by the state board of health.

3. That the state board of health (or some other state authority) shall make at least annual inspections of such institutions, and shall have mandatory powers as to fire, drainage, sewerage, ventilation, and other matters pertaining to the health and safety of the inmates.

4. That one county commissioner be elected biennially, so that all the members of the board shall not go out of office at once.

Yet in spite of this strong report, a bill embodying its main features was defeated in the legislature, which finally adjourned without taking any action whatever upon it.

Appropriations, 1893.

The regular appropriations of the state for charities and correction amount to $23,200, as follows:

For the deaf and dumb	$5,000
Blind	4,000
Idiotic and feeble-minded	1,000
Indigent insane	6,000
Commission of Lunacy (expenses)	1,200
State Industrial School	6,000
	$23,200

The last legislature appropriated in addition to the above:

For new buildings for the insane asylum .	$25,000	
" State Prison library	400	
" State Prison salaries — warden and chaplain	3,000	
" State Prison, repairs and electric lights	4,600	
" State Industrial School, repairs and electric lights	5,000	
" Soldiers' Home (support for two years)	15,000	
		$53,000
Total		$76,200

Respectfully submitted,

LILIAN C. STREETER,

Assistant Secretary New England Conference of Charities and Correction.

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TITLE